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Regional SFC Reports

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does not exceed 860 mg Cl/1. No guidelines for a one time maximum discharge limit which can not be exceeded has been established, only average discharge rates.

A permit to discharge has already been granted for a small facility at Centreville, Alabama. The Alabama Department of Environmental Management has established a deadline of April 19, 1989, for submission of comments on these proposals.

After discussion the membership expressed great concern for the stability of the Cahaba River fauna. The proposed manner of disposal for discharge from these wells is probably the least expensive method, but is not considered to be environmentally sound. Since those individuals making these proposals stand to make a profit from the sale of the resulting methane it is reasonable that they should be willing to provide a more environmentally safe method of disposal. The membership did not foresee any problem of establishing such an environmentally sound method of disposal using current technology.

Chairman Jenkins, upon unanimous recommendation of the membership, asked Bob Stiles to draft a letter regarding the Council's concerns on this matter for distribution to the Executive Committee. This letter should specifically list all critical species, in addition to fishes, within the Cahaba basin. The Council will then forward this letter to the Alabama Department of Environmental Management prior to the April 19 deadline.

2. Chairman Jenkins asked for input as to the northwest limit of the S.E. Region. There seems to be a discrepancy on this limit between what is stated in the Constitution and available maps. Someone from the floor commented that Ray Bouchard may have a copy of the original map.

After discussion a motion was made to adopt the limits as stated in the Constitution and redraw the map accordingly. The motion was passed.

3. Secretary/Treasurer Wieland informed the membership that after some investigation he has learned from the IRS that the Council does not have official tax exempt status. Although we do have a "tax ID number" on our Paine Webber account the origin of this number is in question.

The membership asked the Secretary'/Treasurer to take appropriate steps to resolve this matter.

Regional Reports:

Oral Regional Reports were given by the following individuals:

Bob Jenkins	– Northeast
Noel Burkhead	– Southeast
David Etnier	– North-central
Rick Mayden	– South-central
Bob Cashner	– Southwest
no report	– Northwest

Due to the late hour the Chair asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed and the meeting ended at 6:47 p.m.

Everyone was reminded that the 1990 meeting will be in Charleston, SC with ASIH.

Respectfully submitted,

Werner Wieland

Secretary

REGIONAL SFC REPORTS

REGION I – Northeast

The Roanoke logperch, *Percina rex*, is almost through the federal process of being listed as endangered nationally. That status was officially accorded the Cape Fear shiner, *Notropis mekistocholas*, in 1988.

The Virginia Endangered Species Symposium will be held 28-29 April 1989, at Virginia Tech. This comes about 10 years after the first such Virginia symposium. As with the first, the symposium proceedings will be published. The Fishes committee is chaired by R.E. Jenkins.

Grave concern was expressed regarding the increasing popularity,as an aquarium pet fish, of the red shiner, *Notropis lutrensis*. This species is often called the rainbow shiner in the aquarium trade; its generic allocation will be *Cyprinella*. This fish is generalized and seemingly hardy, and when introduced to a drainage it has potential to effect reduction and extirpation of endemic *Cyprinella* species, as it has done in some areas outside the southeast. It has become established in the Peedee drainage, North Carolina.

R. Jenkins

REGION II – Southeast

Gary Meffe (Savannah River Ecology Lab) and Buck Snelson (University of Central Florida) recently published *Ecology and Evolution of Live Bearing Fishes (Poecillidae).* Also, they are investigating energetics and lipid cycling in *Gambusia* relative to annual and single ovarian reproductive cycles. Ecological studies by GM focus on genetic structure of fish populations and genetic responses to environmental perturbations.

George Burgess from the Florida Museum of Natural History is finishing, with David Synder, a manuscript on fishes of the lower St. Johns River; other activities are marine. Carter Gilbert, with Jim Williams and Noel Burkhead, reports that the fishes of Florida book will be completed in 2 or 3 years. The fish accounts for the 10 year update of FCREPA (Fla. Comm. on Rare and Endangered Plants and Animals) are nearly finished. The present list has not changed considerably from the 1978 list, except in Special Concern categories, or some additions.

Noel Burkhead and Jim Williams from the National Fisheries Research Center, Gainesville are conducting ecological and distributional studies of *Etheostoma okaloosae, E. wapiti,* and *E. (ulocentra)* sp. "Cherokee darter"; distributional work on the enigmatic *Moxostoma* sp. cf. *carinatumis* shelved pending funding. Jim Williams and Dave Etnier just published description of the boulder darter, *Etheostoma wapiti*; it is federally Endangered. Jim Williams, and others, just published national lists of Rare, Threatened, and Endangered fishes, and Extinct North American Fishes in *Fisheries*. Analysis of trends from 1979 to present indicate decline of many extant species. Jim Clayton and Ann Foster completed first year of monitoring 60+ radio-tagged Gulf sturgeons in the Suwannee River. The Gulf sturgeon is presently under review for Federal listing as Threatened. Dawn Jennings and Jim Williams are continuing distributional studies of Florida exotic fishes, particularly the blackchin tilapia and co-authored with Walt Courtenay, a list on exotics for much awaited 1990 common names list. Dawn has a manuscript in press on temperature tolerance of blackchin tilapia relative to its Florida distribution.

Buck Snelson (University of Central Florida) has in press in Copeia, a paper on geographic variation of *Notropis ardens*. He is also working on an electrophoretic study of *Elassoma*, and habitat requirements and ecology of *E. okatie*.

Bruce Bauer (Breedlove, Dennis, and Assoc.) is working with Dave Etnier on a description of *Etheostoma (Ulocentra)* sp., "Cherokee darter", an Etowah River endemic north of Atlanta. This species probably merits federal listing.

Walt Courtenay (Florida Atlantic University) is still attacking USFWS and pet industry for lack of regulation regarding exotic species. Eilene Garcia, his graduate student, is studying growth of spotted tilapia at different salinities.

Bill Loftus (Everglades National Park) is finishing projects on marsh productivity relative to drought cycles (several papers and new twists). He is also preparing a manuscript on movements of walking catfish during rains and beginning to investigate a mercury problem in the Everglades.

N. Burkhead

REGION III – North-central

On 26 October 1988 representatives of NC Game & Fish, UT, and GSMNP met at the Little Tennessee River at the mouth of Sawmill Creek, co. rd. 1125, Swain Co., NC, for the purpose of capturing *Hybopsis monacha* and transplanting them into lower Abrams Creek in the Smokies. Personnel included Dave Etnier, Steve Moore, Bill McLarney, John Alderman, Ken Taylor, Allan Brayton, Heath Sohen, Greg Russell, Edith Hahn, and David Pipes. Our permit allowed us to capture up to 250 spotfin chubs for transplant. We did it! The fish were mostly taken in pool areas along the north bank, where they were abundant. Our quota was reached shortly after noon. The fish were held in mesh cribs in the river, then transferred to plastic bags, about 20 fish per bag, and each bag was placed in a styrofoam cooler. We drove to Chilhowee Reservoir, put in two boats, and motored upstream to the mouth of Abrams Creek and then up Abrams Creek to the lowermost unimpounded pool areas, where the fish were released. Initial mortality was only six fish. On 30 October, in conjunction with our ongoing survey of the fishes of Great Smoky Mountains National Park, we revisited lower Abrams Creek. One seine haul in the uppermost release pool produced 13 fat, healthy, and apparently happy *Hybopsis monacha*. Plans are underway to transplant an additional group of adults on 22-23 May.

Our efforts continue to re-establish smoky (*Noturus baileye*) and yellowfin (*N. flavipinnis*) madtoms in Abrams Creek. A larger culture facility complete with a refrigeration/temperature control unit and excellent filtration was set up at Aquatic Specialists, the aquarium shop run by Randy Shute and John Tullock. Post-hatching mortality was virtually eliminated, but we still lost some eggs that were harvested too early. Young were stocked into Abrams Creek last summer and fall (188 *N. baileyi* and 155 *N. flavipinnis*). Since last summer represented the third year of this program,we have some hope of locating some of these fish (or their offspring) in Abrams Creek this summer. During May we will monitor Citico Creek in order to determine if populations remain sufficiently robust to allow the program to continue. North Fork Hoston River in Virginia has been identified as an additional site for *N. flavipinnis* transplants.

A tiny population of *Hemitremia flammea* (perhaps fewer than 200 individuals) has been located in Cades Cove in the Smokies. This is the only population known from the entire Little Tennessee River system. They occur in several small springs adjacent to upper Abrams Creek. Marcia Sossamon will be doing her MS research on this population in addition to assessing status of other populations in east Tennessee and determining life history parameters.

We have been funded by the Park Service to survey the fishes of Great Smokies National Park. Work started last fall, and will continue this spring. About 25 sites are being sampled, and earlier collection data is being summarized.

Last fall we sampled Isom Lake, a well protected natural cypress swamp near Reelfoot Lake and part of Reelfoot National Wildlife refuge. Our brief visit indicated large populations of *Fundulus chrysotus, F. dispar, Lepomis symmetricus,* and *Etheostoma fusiforme*, all of which have very restricted distributions in Tennessee.

Jim Habera of Ecological Analysts, Inc., has discovered a large population of *Etheostoma fusiforme* in the Tallulah River system, upper Savannah River drainage of Rabun County, Georgia. This is in the Blue Ridge! They have been taken from the tailwater of Nacoochee (=Seed) Reservoir downstream into lower Rabun Reservoir.

Carpiodes velifer adults were recently collected from Nolichucky River and upper Clinch River in east Tennessee. Earlier records from this area, based on juveniles, had never been accepted with complete confidence. In addition, we collected a large juvenile from lower Duck River last fall — the first record from the middle or lower Tennessee River drainage.

D.A. Etnier

REGION IV – South-central

Scott Mettee, Patrick O'Neil, Royal Suttkus, and Malcolm Pierson report that work is ongoing on a manuscript on the

fishes of the Black Warrior River System and the Alabama tributaries of the Tombigbee River system. The Geological Survey of Alabama would like to announce two new faunal publications in Alabama: "Fishes of the Lower Tombigbee River in Alabama and Mississippi" by Mettee et al. and "Aquatic Invertebrates in the Warrior Coal Basin of Alabama" by Harris, et al.

David Heins and John Baker reported that their work with the life histories of *Noturus hildebrandi, Etheostoma lynceum,* and *E. caeruleum* continue. John is also working with spawning site selection in *Cyprinella venusta*, with respect to stream flow in the Pearl and Sabine rivers. David is also working with spawning behavior with *C. venusta* from the Escatawpa River.

Steve Bortone reports that a recent survey of the Oklaloosa darter indicates that populations appear to be stable, even in some creeks receiving spray-field effluent.

Bob Cashner reports that he, Sam Rogers, and Jim Grady are working on the biochemical systematics of the *Fundulus* subgenus *Zygonectes*, particularly the *F. notti* species complex. Mark Warren is completing a two-year study on the distribution of fishes in the Buffalo River, Mississippi. Phil Denette is studying fish community stability in the Little Buffalo River.

Malcolm Pierson reports that he, Mike Howell, Bob Stiles, John Ramsey, Scott Mettee, Patrick O'Neil, and Royal Suttkus are working on the "Fishes of the Cahaba River System in Alabama." Malcolm also reports that aquatic biologists are sampling fishes and macroinvertebrates from the lower Tallapoosa River below Thurlow Dam.

Mel Warren reports that as part of a wider geographic variation study of *Lepomis punctatus* the nominal Coosa River undescribed subspecies discussed by Bailey (1938) is apparently not worthy of recognition.

John Ramsey reports that he is continuing to work on the shoal bass (*Micropterus* sp., cf. *punctulatus*) and Cahaba shiner (*Notropis* sp., cf. *volucellus*) descriptions. He and John Selden Burke have been examining the present and historic distribution and conservation status of the Alabama sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus* sp., cf. *platorynchus*). John and Thomas Brantly are also involved with paddlefish movements in the upper Alabama River. James Orr and John Ramsey are also examining reproduction and ecological limitation of a distributionally marginal population of *Etheostoma jordani*. Jim Williams is nearing completion of the description of the Alabama sturgeon.

David Etnier reports that the description and systematic relationships of the undescribed Boulder darter is nearly completed. Mary Jane Larkin is examining systematics of *Etheostoma nigrum* from the south-central portion of the range.

Steve Ross reports that he and Bill Brenneman have completed their third year on the "Inland Fishes of Mississippi" project. Presently, they have about 40,000 species lots from Mississippi. This project has been funded for an additional two years for field work and color photography of fishes. Steve, Dave Wilkins, and Scott Peyton recently started a survey of the fishes of the Pascagoula, Chickasawhay, and Leaf rivers. Mark Peterson has completed his study of lower Old Fort Bayou, emphasizing the costs and benefits of freshwater fishes moving into low salinity water. Bill Brenneman is beginning field work with "Comparative ontogenetic life history attributes of upper and lower reach stream fishes and the consequences of fish assemblage structure."

Bernard Kuhajda and I are studying the life histories of *Notropis chrosomus* and *Noturus funebris*. Mark Ferguson is studying life history aspects of the Alabama shiner (*Cyprinella callistia*). Herb Boschung is actively working on his manuscript on Alabama Fishes.

R. Mayden

REGION V – Southwest

R. D. Suttkus reports that the Red River Lock & Dam #2 at rm 87 below Alexandria, LA has been closed and backed up to above rm 112. He reports some current but the river is channelized with an alga bloom and stagnant conditions at Alexandria. It is clear, however, above and below the pool. *Notropis hubbsi* was collected in a cut-off bend in backwater but with an open lower end. Also taken were shad, *Menidia*, a white bass x striped bass hybrid and a very dead *Ptenopharngodon*. Also, at Fort Jackson while collecting in the Mississippi River at rm 20 (above head of passes) he obtained the expected red fish, speckled trout and black drum in the main channel but also unexpectedly, due to low water conditions, spots, silver perch, mojarra and hardheads.

Frank Pezold reports from Monroe, LA that the Corps of Engineers is researching plans to further dredge and channelize the Ouachita River after an eight year hiatus. This will become part of the proposed Ouachita – Black River Navigation Project. Frank also reports that Neil Douglas' student Madelen Carter is investigating chromosomal variation between members of the *Fundulus notti* species complex. Another student, Todd Slack is investigating the impact of summer surface water withdrawal for irrigation in four NE Louisiana streams with assistance from the Corps of Engineers. Mike Jones, a student of Frank Pezold, will conduct an electrophoretic study on *Lepomis marginatus* and *L. megalotis* populations west of the Mobile Bay drainages. Neil Douglas is working with the Corps in comparing "improved" (i.e. rip-rap stabilization) versus "unimproved" channelized stream tributaries to the Tombigbee River, as to fish faunal changes.

R. Cashner

NEWS NOTES

NOTICE

In my paper "Atlas of Fishes of the Upper Tombigbee River Drainage, Alabama-Mississippi," SFC *PROCEEDINGS* No. 19, July, 1989, I inadvertently failed to acknowledge Dr. Royal D. Suttkus, Tulane University, and Dr. William Fink and Douglas Nelson, University of Michigan Museum of Zoology for their contributions of data. I apologize to Royal, Bill and Doug for my careless oversight. I appreciate the editor of